

tered the field, Mr. Fore did not see Pokey and Ellen return at all. Ben Knight, the husband (pro. tem) of Pokey Barnes, testified that he saw Pokey and Ellen when they were near Pokey's house on their return, and that they had been gone about three quarters of an hour. On cross-examination Ben stated that they (the hands) had replanted four or five rows of corn each; that the corn land was hard, and they were chopping it up and replanting as they went along; that the rows were long (since ascertained to be 24 yards), and that it would take sometime to replant one, perhaps nearly half an hour. Thus it is clear, that Pokey was unable to account for herself during the entire time in which it was possible for the murder to have been committed, except by Ellen Gayle. Ellen testified that she went to sleep, and did not know where Pokey went. She has since stated that she went with Pokey until they reached the old gate place at the end of the lane leading up to the stable lot, and becoming suspicious that Pokey was going to lead her into trouble, or in other words going to pick up something she could not get, she (Ellen) told her that she was going back, and Pokey said, "I will come after awhile." After getting off a short distance Ellen looked back, and saw Pokey about half way from the old gate to the corner of the yard in the lane, walking slowly towards Mr. Pollard's house. She waited for Pokey about half an hour before she came back.

NOT GIVEN TO THE JURY.

The committee here states that this last account by Ellen was not given to the jury, but that one of our number has heard this statement on two separate occasions from Ellen's own lips, and as an explanation of why she did not tell all on the witness-stand, she stated that she was afraid of Pokey; that Pokey had already beaten one woman (Cora Knight) so badly that she died soon after, and, upon inquiry, the committee finds that there is strong ground for this statement about Cora Knight. Mr. Pollard stating that it occurred near his house, and that his wife took Pokey away from Cora, and that Cora died in a very short time thereafter.

Soon after reaching her house in the evening of the murder Pokey, in company with Ellen Gayle, Mary Craghead, and Betsy Ellis, went around the fence to the gate near where Mary Barnes was at work, and had a conference with her on Mr. Pollard's land, notwithstanding that he had orders not to come on it, and Pokey was there, near her mother (Mary Barnes) after the other women were left, when the alarm was given by Mr. Pollard. That Pokey Barnes was at enmity with Mrs. Pollard was proved by Pokey's own witness (Susan Thompson), who stated on the stand that she was present some time during the past year, when Mrs. Pollard asked Pokey while passing her house if she had not been ordered not to come on that land, adding that she could not have any vegetables for her and her children. Pokey replied in very abusive language, saying that Mrs. Pollard had no land, and she would go where she pleased, and ended by saying "I— you; if I had you in the robe I would shoot you."

MARY BARNES GUILTY, TOO.

Now as to Mary Barnes: Solomon stated that she first broached the subject to him on Friday, a week before the murder was committed; that on Thursday she told him to be at the spring, and if they were not ready on that day to come again on Friday; that he saw her on Thursday chopping bushes near the fence south of the house; that she came to the spring Friday, and told him that she was at Chase City, and had four witnesses summoned to prove that she was there. By none of these, however, could she do so, and finally, in conversational style with Solomon on the stand, when he stated that she was there and he could go and put his finger right down where both of them were sitting on the well, when she told him about it, she said, "I wasn't there; I was in the

house canning strawberries, and couldn't come out where you were." In compliance with the agreement between him and Mary, Solomon was at the spring on Thursday, but did not, as he had stated, see Mary chopping bushes in front of the house, as Mr. Pollard testifies that she was not there at that work until Friday. On Friday Mary did go to the spring at the time stated by Solomon. She did leave the house a short time after Mr. Pollard did, and it is a fact that from the position he has stated he occupied, a person can see through all of the three doors of Mr. Pollard's house out through the front gate, and a long distance on the road leading out from his house. Solomon stated that Mary Barnes said that she would notify Mr. Abernathy and Pokey Barnes. It is a fact that she had an opportunity to notify Mary Abernathy between 3 and 4 o'clock, and that she went to Pokey's house on that day at midday. A very strong circumstance that she did know where the keys were kept, is that at 4 o'clock on the fatal Friday, just before going to the field, she was given a dose of spirits of turpentine and camphor by Mrs. Pollard. The deceased lady got the keys and admitted the door. All of this was testified to before the jury by Mary.

SOLOMON MARABLE'S TESTIMONY.
A great deal has been said and written about Solomon Marable's testimony. He has been called the chief of liars, and many other hard names; and yet the chief of liars, can sometimes tell the truth under certain circumstances, and men of brains ought to be able to separate truth from falsehood. Solomon Marable's testimony was undoubtedly credited to him on a certain extent, when given in his own trial, and he was convicted in large part upon his own statements, and yet how much stronger is the call to be honest and truthful when he is testifying in the case of the Commonwealth against Mary Abernathy? Now, the jury have solemnly declared that Solomon Marable is guilty of murder in the first degree, the punishment of which is death. No hope is held out to him; on the contrary, he is assured by the attorneys for the Commonwealth and by the judge of the court of his speedy execution. Does he realize his situation? Look on him, at the jury did at that hour. Every man bent forward eager to catch every word that the doomed man was uttering, while in low tones, without reserve, the tears slowly stealing down his cheeks—bared the tale of the terrible butchery, and say whether or not there was anything under the heavens to induce him to tell a falsehood, when he stated to the jury: "If they were not in it, I would not put them in it; Mary Abernathy and Pokey Barnes killed her, and I held her."

THE JURY BELIEVED HIM.
Yes, the jury did believe him, as was plainly expressed on their faces, when each man drew a long breath at the conclusion of these last words, saying, as they leaned back in their seats, "Take him away; that is enough."

By contrast Solomon's frame of mind at this time with that of Friday, the day of July, when he was testifying in behalf of Pokey Barnes. Despite everything to the contrary, it is now positively asserted by this committee as a fact, that Solomon told this white-man story under promise of safety to him; that he was a white man and clear the women. Whether or not he misconstrued the words used, "If a white man did it, say so, and we will see you safe," is not for this committee to judge, but we do know a drowning man might catch at a straw. Solomon held to this story only a short time, breaking down early in the cross-examination, and candidly admitting that three men in soldiers' clothes had told him while in a room in the court-house the night before that they knew a white man was in it, and if he would put it on the white man, and clear the women, they would see him safe. It has been said by some of the military that this word, "safe," only meant protection from violence at the hands of the people, and a safe delivery back in the Richmond jail.

Let us see how Solomon construed it: **CERTIFICATE OF DEPUTY-SHERIFF E. A. CLEMENTS.**
"This is to certify that Solomon Mar-

able called me to him in the court-room soon after he had declared the white-man story to be a lie, and attempted to make a statement, when the judge checked him, and when on the way to the jail in my charge a few minutes later he told me that what he wanted to tell me in the court-room was this: That the soldiers said to me that if I would put this thing on a white man and clear the women, they would take me and the women back to Richmond and turn me loose."

E. A. CLEMENTS, Deputy Sheriff.

"August 5, 1895.

"County of Lunenburg—To wit:

"August 5, 1895.

"I, George H. Moore, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the county aforesaid, in the State of Virginia, do certify that E. A. Clements, whose name is signed to the foregoing writing, bearing date on the 5th day of August, 1895, has acknowledged the same before me in my county, aforesaid.

"Given under my hand this 5th day of August, 1895.

G. H. MOORE, Justice of the Peace.

Do any wonder at or blame Solomon for making this statement? The wonder

county, who testified that, in his opinion, a perfectly fair trial could be had in this county by getting a jury from the other end of the county from where the crime was committed, and every other witness introduced testified likewise.

After the examination of witnesses introduced by Judge Perry for a change of venue, the Attorney for the Commonwealth stated that he would not introduce any testimony, but would rely upon the witnesses for the defence, who had proved to the court that the motion should be overruled. The Attorney for the Commonwealth then asked Judge Perry, the counsel for the prisoners, if he wished to argue the motion. Judge Perry replied that he did not, as his testimony had failed to establish the necessity for a change of venue or the summoning of a jury from another county.

Judge Perry (soon after the motion for change of venue and jury from another county was overruled) stated to the court that as the husband of the prisoner had failed to meet the terms upon which he had offered to defend her, he would not appear in the case.

The Judge was urged by the Attorney for the Commonwealth in the strongest

by which Mrs. Lucy J. Pollard, a most estimable lady, was brutally butchered in her own yard between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, as has been proved by sworn and reputable witnesses, and whereas, our people, after earnest effort, succeeded in capturing and bringing to trial, without violence to them, the perpetrators of the crime; and the said parties having been given a fair trial under the laws by our County Court and by four trial juries selected principally from a distance of about twenty-five miles from the scene of the murder, and composed of our best citizens, white and colored, who testified under oath, that they could give the prisoners a fair and impartial trial, and the said prisoners—viz: Solomon Marable, Mary Abernathy, Pokey Barnes, and Mary Barnes (the first three as principals in the murder, and the last named as accessory)—were convicted and sentenced—the principals to be hung, and the last named, Mary Barnes, to the penitentiary for ten years. These prisoners were convicted upon the confession of Solomon Marable, one of the murderers, that he held and choked their victim, Mrs. Pollard, while Pokey Barnes and Mary Abernathy murdered her with an old axe that was found with blood on it within a few feet of Mrs. Pollard's body. Circumstances and the evidence of other witnesses so corroborated the testimony of Marable that the juries were satisfied of the guilt of the prisoners, and convicted them. After having been requested by the Court and the prosecuting attorneys several times during the trial to give each prisoner the benefit of every doubt as to the evidence, it is unreasonable to believe that four juries of intelligent citizens, separately empaneled, three each, could so far err, as to condemn three or two persons to death, without sufficient testimony, after the witnesses for and against the prisoners had been examined by the court, and by the prisoners themselves during the trial. The juries examined the witnesses for the defence, as he had tried and failed to secure counsel to defend them. He requested two attorneys who were present during the trial to defend him, but they refused to do so, after one of them had held conference with Solomon Marable, who had confessed to being a party to the murder. The prisoners, having thus been tried and convicted, each under separate and jury, were taken to Richmond for safe-keeping until the day of execution, which, we think, was unnecessary, as we are sure our people had no idea of molesting them after they were satisfied that they were secured and would be properly dealt with according to law.

H. C. GREGORY,
JOHN ROBERTSON,
S. T. ROBERTSON,
W. T. BENTLEY,
C. M. HARTLEY,
G. E. SMITH,
E. A. CLEMENTS.

The Judge was urged by the Attorney for the Commonwealth in the strongest

by which Mrs. Lucy J. Pollard, a most

estimable lady, was brutally butchered

in her own yard between the hours of

4 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon of that

day, as has been proved by sworn and

reputable witnesses, and whereas, our

people, after earnest effort, succeeded in

capturing and bringing to trial, without

violence to them, the perpetrators of the

crime; and the said parties having been

given a fair trial under the laws by our

County Court and by four trial juries

selected principally from a distance of

about twenty-five miles from the scene

of the murder, and composed of our best

citizens, white and colored, who testified

under oath, that they could give the pris-

oners a fair and impartial trial, and the

said prisoners—viz: Solomon Marable,

Mary Abernathy, Pokey Barnes, and

Mary Barnes (the first three as principals

in the murder, and the last named as

accessory)—were convicted and senten-

ced—the principals to be hung, and the

last named, Mary Barnes, to the peni-

tentiary for ten years. These pris-

oners were convicted upon the confes-

sion of Solomon Marable, one of the mur-

derers, that he held and choked their

victim, Mrs. Pollard, while Pokey Barnes

and Mary Abernathy murdered her with

an old axe that was found with blood on

it within a few feet of Mrs. Pollard's

body. Circumstances and the evidence

of other witnesses so corroborated the

testimony of Marable that the juries were

satisfied of the guilt of the prisoners,

and convicted them. After having been

requested by the Court and the prosec-

uting attorneys several times during the

trial to give each prisoner the benefit of

every doubt as to the evidence, it is un-

reasonable to believe that four juries

of intelligent citizens, separately empane-

led, three each, could so far err, as to

condemn three or two persons to death,

without sufficient testimony, after the

witnesses for and against the prisoners

had been examined by the court, and by

the prisoners themselves during the trial.

The juries examined the witnesses for

the defence, as he had tried and failed

to secure counsel to defend them. He

requested two attorneys who were pres-

ent during the trial to defend him, but

they refused to do so, after one of them

had held conference with Solomon Mar-

able, who had confessed to being a party

to the murder. The prisoners, having

thus been tried and convicted, each un-

der separate and jury, were taken to

Richmond for safe-keeping until the day

of execution, which, we think, was un-

necessary, as we are sure our people

had no idea of molesting them after

they were satisfied that they were se-

cured and would be properly dealt with

according to law.

lawless mob, incapable of according a fair trial to murderers who had partly confessed the crime; and as the Times and its reporters have undertaken to review this entire case, and persist in defaming and misrepresenting our county and people.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

Therefore, be it resolved by the people of Lunenburg, in mass-meeting assembled, That we claim to be a law-abiding people, as evidenced by the fact that there has never been a lynching within the borders of our county, and we denounce the publications as not only false and unjust to us, but as dangerous to law and order, as it persists in publishing false theories and garbled statements from its own correspondents, or from a source which it acknowledges to be unworthy of belief, and withholds from the public the facts and the evidence as stated and published elsewhere by sworn witnesses and citizens, whose veracity cannot be impeached. We believe the press to be the best friend of the people, and we have ever favored the maintenance of an ample State militia, to be properly used when needed, to protect criminals from mob violence, to suppress riots, and to protect the civil officers, when requested by them, in executing the laws, but we claim that they have no right, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the execution of the orders of the courts, to the meeting out of justice to criminals under the verdict of a jury, and if they are permitted to do so, it is best for the liberties of the people that the State militia be abolished.

We do not object to the acts of our court or the verdicts of our juries being reviewed in the proper manner and by the proper authorities, if it should be necessary, but we protest against this unwarrantable attack upon us, and the persistent efforts of the Richmond Times and its reporters, to pervert the truth by suppressing the facts in our behalf, and suggesting false theories in order to mislead the public, and to create a false impression of the facts in this case, and to bring the true facts before the public, to encourage lynching, as we must and will protect our wives and daughters without law, if law-abiding criminals are allowed to go unpunished by technicalities in law, or by the assistance of a prejudiced or venal press, and we trust the press and people of every section of the State will join us in this protest.

FAIRNESS OF THE DISPATCH.

The following, offered by Mr. H. C. Gregory, was also adopted:
In referring to the Richmond press, we are not alluding to the Richmond Dispatch. We believe that the Dispatch is a friend to our people, and we appreciate its efforts to deal fairly, and especially its efforts in today's (Tuesday's) paper, to bring the true facts before the public. This was followed by the adoption of this resolution:

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

The following were also adopted:
Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting, and all the people of Lunenburg, be tendered to the people of Lunenburg, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

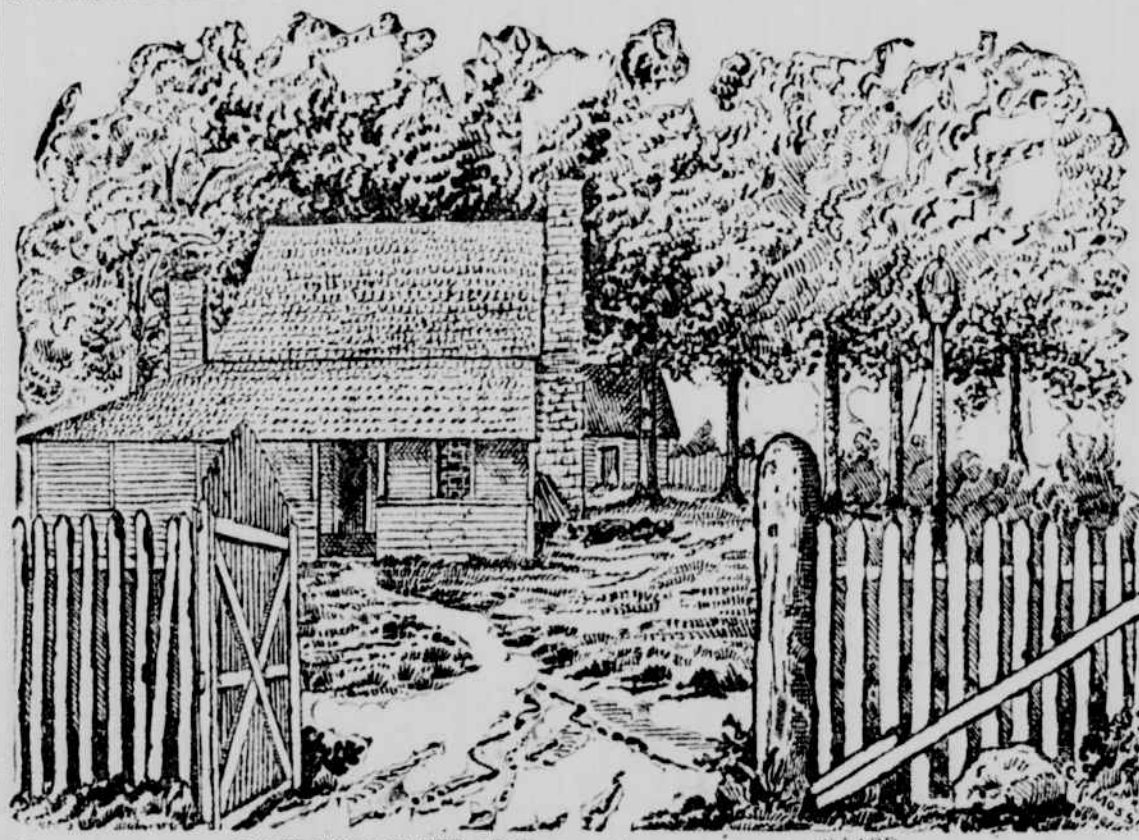
and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a

and people, and to advertise them as a



FRONT VIEW OF THE RESIDENCE OF E. S. POLLARD.

is that he didn't stick to it longer than he did. This was the first time since his capture that Solomon had ever varied from the first statement—that Mary Abernathy and Pokey Barnes were his accomplices in the murder.

AN IMPARTIAL TRIAL.

We feel assured that as near an impartial trial was given these prisoners as could be had anywhere in the State, and that there has been no organization for, nor any intention on the part of the people of our county to lynch these prisoners at any time since they were placed in the hands of the officers of the law. It is true that some indiscreet persons will be found in every community whose words are calculated to impress strangers very unfavorably, and doubtless it is true in this case that some turbulent spirits did make improper remarks; but it is a fact that it was an easy matter for the cooler heads to persuade our people to give the Commonwealth a fair opportunity and all the assistance possible to rid our section of these brutal murderers. We have done our part faithfully. These murderers have been given a fair trial and have been convicted and sentenced.

LET THE COMMITTEE, IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA FOR

language (using these words, "For Christ's sake, and for the sake of humanity") to appear in behalf of these prisoners. The Judge declined, stating that he had pressing business which called him elsewhere.

DANGER OF MOB VIOLENCE.

We, the members of this committee, claim to be fully posted as to the sentiment of our people, and we here emphatically state that there has been no organization for, nor any intention on the part of the people of our county to lynch these prisoners at any time since they were placed in the hands of the officers of the law. It is true that some indiscreet persons will be found in every community whose words are calculated to impress strangers very unfavorably, and doubtless it is true in this case that some turbulent spirits did make improper remarks; but it is a fact that it was an easy matter for the cooler heads to persuade our people to give the Commonwealth a fair opportunity and all the assistance possible to rid our section of these brutal murderers. We have done our part faithfully. These murderers have been given a fair trial and have been convicted and sentenced.

LET THE COMMITTEE, IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA FOR

language (using these words, "For Christ's sake, and for the sake of humanity") to appear in behalf of these prisoners. The Judge declined, stating that he had pressing business which called him elsewhere.

DANGER OF MOB VIOLENCE.

We, the members of this committee, claim to be fully posted as to the sentiment of our people, and we here emphatically state that there has been no organization for, nor any intention on the part of the people of our county to lynch these prisoners at any time since they were placed in the hands of the officers of the law. It is true that some indiscreet persons will be found in every community whose words are calculated to impress strangers very unfavorably, and doubtless it is true in this case that some turbulent spirits did make improper remarks; but it is a fact that it was an easy matter for the cooler heads to persuade our people to give the Commonwealth a fair opportunity and all the assistance possible to rid our section of these brutal murderers. We have done our part faithfully. These murderers have been given a fair trial and have been convicted and sentenced.

LET THE COMMITTEE, IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF LUNENBURG COUNTY, EXTEND OUR THANKS TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA FOR

language (using these words, "For Christ's sake, and for the sake of humanity") to appear in behalf of these prisoners. The Judge declined, stating that he had pressing business which called him elsewhere.

language (using these words, "For Christ's sake, and for the sake of humanity") to appear in behalf of these prisoners. The Judge declined, stating that he had pressing business which called him elsewhere.